Ground water level in Madhya Pradesh

5096. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water level in the districts of Madhya Pradesh has gone down to the level of more than four metres thereby making the situation alarming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per studies made by the Central Ground Water Board, fall in the level of ground water by more than 4 metres (1981—2000) has been observed in parts of Betul, Bhind, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dhar, Guna, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Katni, Khandawa, Khargone, Mandsaur, Morena, Narsingpur, Neemuch, Panna, Raisen, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Sagar, Sehore, Shajapur, Shivpuri, Ujjain and Vidisha districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and rooftop rain water harvesting under various schemes. Various measures as initiated by the Central Government to arrest decline in ground water and to harness it are indicated below:—

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States / Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States / Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water on "pilot basis" in the country during the IX Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 crore.

(v) Organisation of mass awareness and training programmes on water harvesting and recharging of ground water all over the country.

Watershed Development Project in Gujarat

5097. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced any plan to develop 62 lakh hectares of wasteland/ degraded lands of the country under new watershed development projects;

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which States are likely to be benefited particularly the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Watershed development projects for treatment of the wastelands/degraded lands in the country are sanctioned by Ministry of Rural Development under three Area Development Programmes, namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). It is proposed to sanction new watershed development projects covering 30 lakhs hectares of area during 2002-2003 under these three Programmes as per details given below:

SI. No.	Name of the Programme	Targeted area (in lakh ha.)
1.	IWDP	10
2.	DPAP	12
3.	DDP	8
	TOTAL:	30